



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Regular Meetings: The
First, Second, and Third
Tuesday of each month

Special Meeting

Chalfant Community Center

November 18, 2008

6:10 p.m. Meeting Called to Order by Chairwoman Bauer

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Hazard

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Kyle Goin: Chalfant resident and member of the Chalfant Public Land Stewardship Group, wanted to inform people about the group and provided literature so people can learn more about what they do.

Mark Mikulicich: Provided an update about the paid-per-call EMT service. He has been working with the fire district commissioners on this program, which offers a paid incentive to EMTs every time they service a call. This will bolster emergency medical services in the area. He will come before the Board in the future to talk about the program.

REGULAR AGENDA

COUNTY COUNSEL

Additional Departments: Environmental Health

- 1) Public Input on a Proposed Ordinance that would Restrict the Construction of New Wells within the Service Areas of Public Water Systems (**Louis Molina Environmental Health Director, Allen Berrey, Assistant County Counsel**) - Receive short presentation by Environmental Health Director Louis Molina and

Assistant County Counsel Allen Berrey about a proposed ordinance that would restrict the construction of new wells within the service areas of public water systems; invite members of the public to provide input on that ordinance.

Action: Provide any desired direction to staff.

Chairwoman Bauer: The purpose of this meeting is to get public input. The Board decided at the regular meeting to postpone adoption of an ordinance pending public input.

Louis Molina: Under the proposed ordinance, individuals would not be able to get a permit to construct a well within a water service area, except under certain circumstances. This addresses the problem of potential risk of contaminating groundwater, and also addresses the existence of current water systems and not bypassing them. If it is not practical, or it is a financial burden, to connect to the existing water source, a permit would be issued. This is not an overriding issue since in the last 12 years about two people have asked about drilling within a water boundary area. The ordinance wouldn't be an imposition to most people and would provide protection in quantity and quality of water.

Supervisors Bauer: This issue came before the Board because of a problem in June Lake. Each area of the County has a unique situation and the Board understands that communities need to provide input.

Supervisor Hazard: There are issues in various communities concerning wells, and at this time the Board wanted to consider the situation. However, the Board wanted to take public input and answer questions before considering action on the ordinance. This ordinance would impact communities with a water district, so it would not impact the Tri-Valley area.

Public Comments

Comment: Asked about regulation of water quality.

- Molina: Quality is regulated by the health department following state guidelines. Water quality is checked according to a schedule, and reports should be issued annually. Residents have to be notified if there is a violation of water quality.

Tim Scott: Referred to White Mountain Estates, and said the CC&Rs would determine what people can do if they intend to buy a house. He expressed opposition to the County setting additional restrictions, and said the local community with the CC&Rs can establish what is needed.

Comment: Asked about the number of private water districts.

- Molina: There are about 22 systems; two are in the Chalfant area (West Chalfant and White Mountains).

Greg Newbry: Asked about boundaries of water service areas. He opposed the ordinance and said a water district should be making these determinations. He suggested the ordinance apply to a water district vs. a public water system since private water companies don't have the same governing requirements. He did not want to see people put in a situation of having to get unsafe drinking water from a private company.

- Molina: The boundary of a service area is defined when the subdivision is planned (based on the lots and the configuration of the lots). The current ordinance does have an appeal process; the proposed ordinance is an amendment to the current ordinance.

Allen Berrey, assistant county counsel, made a point of clarification: If the environmental health department determines the water is unsafe, people would not be required to hook up.

Supervisor Farnetti: Asked if the County could do additional research on the water districts' police powers. Marshall Rudolph: The County Counsel's office can do additional research as the Board desires.

Supervisor Reid: Wants input from the PUD in Bridgeport and from water districts throughout the area, but the systems in District 4 don't have problems; problems that don't exist should not be solved. Each community is so unique that one solution cannot address the situation in every community. The Board should try to solve the June Lake problem but not impose restrictions throughout the County.

Supervisor Hazard: There are good reasons in District 2 to not prohibit people from drilling wells; property owners need an option. He supported protecting June Lake, but not impacting all communities.

Molina: Will take all public comment under advisement since there are pros and cons with this ordinance.

Supervisor Farnetti: Does not want to over-react to a problem that is specific to one area of the County.

Lynda Salcido: The issue of safe water is high on the priority list of the environmental health department. She encouraged people to contact Molina if they are concerned about their water quality. The department is currently looking at water quality problems in the Mountain Meadows area and will keep the Board informed. Supervisor Hazard: Expressed concern that home owners have not been notified by the company; he suggested the County step in to notify residents.

SHERIFF CORONER

- 2) State of the Sheriff's Office (**Sheriff Richard C. Scholl**) - Receive presentation by Sheriff Richard C. Scholl regarding the state of the Sheriff's office.
Action: Request that the Board of Supervisors receive the Sheriff's staff report and provide input and comments as to the status of the Sheriff's office.

Sheriff Scholl: Gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Sheriff's Department. Since his election 19 months ago, Scholl has made changes to improve service to the public (being accountable to the public). Wants local deputies that work in the communities to attend the RPAC meetings so they can understand the needs of the community and give the public the chance to ask questions. Understands that the County is diverse and the Sheriff's Office needs to respond accordingly. The presentation addressed current status, significant changes, and goals.

- Currently fully staffed
- GIS mapping helps find the location of incoming calls
- Reverse 911 can broadcast a message by calling homes about emergencies
- Court screeners provide a security system before people enter the courts (this is funded by the Administrative Office of the Courts)
- Communication system upgrades help the deputies communicate better with the office and with other entities
- The phone system has been upgraded (all of the 911 fees from the state paid for the upgrade)
- Video cameras in vehicles digitally records activity, which protects the citizen/violator and the department

- A new jail sergeant position will help with increased jail population
- Facilities have been upgraded
- Officers attend training to be prepared for unexpected events
- SAR (search and rescue) team has new vehicles and storage structures for the vehicles
- Citizen surveys provide feedback to the Sheriff's Office (50% return rate; anonymous for unbiased opinion)
- Inter-agency cooperation has created good working relationships with other entities
- Policy changes have been made to better implement procedures
- Improved and updated the web site
- Breakdown of staffing levels (27 sworn personnel, 12 patrol deputies, 18 jail/communications, 7 part-time court screeners, 3 boating officers, 4 MCPEA employees)
- Staffing issues: resident deputy issues (can't require employees to live within a specific geographical area); exploring ways to get deputies involved in the communities
- Connected with other entities which allows data sharing of motorist stops; changes in procedures gets the officer out of the car and into the community
- Drug enforcement activity has resulted in seizures of illegal drugs
- Future projects/goals include jail needs assessment, garage structure to house vehicles, increased patrol deputy staffing, increased corrections staffing, new jail roof, permanent SAR building, obtaining a fixed wing aircraft, and improving image in communities

Public Comments

Comment: Asked why it takes 45-60 minutes to send a deputy to Benton.

- Scholl: In a rural community, the level of service is not the same as an urban area. The County is 3,000 square miles so the deputies have a big area to cover. With current staffing levels, he can't have deputies in every community all of the time. However, due to the rural nature of the County, deputies can respond to calls that urban areas won't respond to. There are three deputies that reside in the Tri-Valley area.

Comment: In the past, deputies were seen more. Don't see them as much in the Chalfant area.

Comment: Would like to see deputies in the area more often.

Comment: Seems like the community gets the same answer, that this is a rural area, yet residents pay the same taxes.

Prior to adjourning, Supervisor Hazard said crews should begin working on the park upgrades tomorrow. He thanked the community for attending the meeting.

ADJOURN: 7:51 p.m.

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